

At 'J. B.' Premiere

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## *She Was the 'Most Pleased' Of Radcliffe's Alumnae*

THE 'CURTAIN' closed Saturday night on the American premiere of Archibald MacLeish's verse-drama "J.B." to the first standing ovation in the memory of National Theater-goers.

It played to a sell-out house, benefiting the Radcliffe Club of Washington's scholarship fund. But of all the Radcliffe alumnae in the audience, the one most pleased with the benefit's success only spent one semester at Radcliffe—Ada Hitchcock MacLeish, the playwright's wife.

Mrs. MacLeish, who accompanied her husband to the Radcliffe Club's after-theater party in the Crystal Room of the Willard, studied at Radcliffe when her husband was a student at Harvard Law School.

Now she's back in Cambridge once again, where her

husband holds a professorship at Harvard University. But this year the MacLeishes haven't spent much time in Massachusetts, since the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet has been working with "J. B." director Elia Kazan and producer Alfred de Liguere, on revisions of his original, longer, play.

The MacLeishes have been in Washington for the week of rehearsals, will remain through the local run of the play, then go on to New York for the Broadway opening. The show's "try-out" here has given them a chance to renew friendships made while MacLeish was Librarian of Congress.

BEFORE the premiere performance on Saturday, they dined with Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Cabot. Also among the guests, who

went on to the National, were former Secretary of State and Mrs. Dean Acheson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Atherton, Mrs. Edwin M. Watson, Mrs. William Ruddy, Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Haskard, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Cabot, and Max Freedman.

Among the theater-goers were Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Roosevelt, CIA director Allen Dulles and Mrs. Dulles, and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Alsop.

At the Radcliffe Club's midnight supper, cast members—and Radcliffe alumnae who had worked on the benefit—were presented commemorative scrolls by Club President Mrs. William Ewald Jr. Missing was actor Massey, who went home to bed with laryngitis and high temperature, after completing a flawless performance.